

## Message Text

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17

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /142 W

----- 006389

P R 290640Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 728

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0837

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECAFE: OCON

SUBJ/ ECAFE: PROPOSED "COLOMBO DECLARATION"

1. SUMMARY: IN FACE OF PERSISTENT CORRIDOR RUMORS THAT SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT (SLG) DESIRED ECAFE PLENARY TO ADOPT A "COLOMBO DECLARATION", AMB FERGUSON CALLED ON EXSEC MARAMIS TO SEEK CLARIFICATION. END SUMMARY.

2. US ECAFE DEL HAS PICKED UP PERSISTENT RUMORS OF CORRIDOR GOSSIP TYPE TO THE EFFECT THAT SLG WOULD SEEK ADOPTION OF DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO BE STYLED THE "COLOMBO DECLARATION". SUCH INDICATIONS WERE THAT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WOULD BE REHAIST OF ALGIERS' DECLARATION IN REGIONAL PACKAGE.

3. AMB FERGUSON CALLED ON EXSEC MARAMIS TO SEEK CLARIFICATION. FERGUSON INDICATED THAT IF DECLARATION WERE ALONG LINES OF ALGIERS' DOCUMENTS, US WOULD BE PUT IN POSITION OF PUBLICLY EMBARRASSING GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA. FERGUSON INDICATED THAT SUCH THINGS AS ALGIERS' VERSION OF PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO USG. HENCE, SHOULD IT BE EMBODIED IN DECLARATION, USG WOULD BE PUT IN POSITION OF HAVING TO PUBLICLY RESERVE ON THE RECRODD AND THUS EMBARRASS SLG.

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4. MARAMIS ADMITTED THAT MATTER HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION BUT STATED SLG SIMPLY WANTED SOME DECLARATION WHICH WOULD COMMEMORATE ECAFE MEETING IN COLOMBO. IN REPLY FERGUSON SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS DECLARATION ENDORSING HIS INITIATIVES TO STREAM-LINE AND REVITALIZE ECAFE, WOULD SERVE PURPOSE AND BE A MATTER WHICH "USG COULD VOTE FOR FIVE TIMES IF WE COULD GET AWAY WITH IT".

5. MARAMIS PROMISED TAKE IDEA UNDER CONSIDERATION AND TO CONSULT WITH USG ON "COLOMBO DECLARATION" BEFORE MATTER PRESENTED FOR GENERAL CONSULATATIONS WITH OTHER DELS.  
VAN HOLLEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 29 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Subject:** ECAFE: PROPOSED "COLOMBO DECLARATION"  
**TAGS:** OCON, ECAFE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005